

Homestead course has changed — and much for the better

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The fairways have been widened and the prices have been lowered.

By Mike Sorensen
Deseret News sports writer

If you played the Homestead Golf Course in 1990 and haven't been back, you may want to give it another try. The course has changed considerably since then, for the better.

Two years ago when the Homestead opened, it was hailed as a "championship" golf course. While championship golf courses are great, unfortunately, the average golfer didn't appreciate the new Homestead course as much as the excellent golfer might — especially because of the number of balls that could be lost over barbed wire fences and into thick wetlands. Even the excellent golfers weren't too thrilled with the Homestead layout at first.

But give the Homestead operators credit. They've made every effort to improve the course during the past couple of years. They've widened fairways, cut back the wetlands substantially and even lowered prices. And suddenly the course is busy with golfers filling the course every day of the week.

"We've made a huge turnaround," said Homestead professional Chris Briscoe. "People are genuinely happy with the course

now. The first year they were just mad. But we've responded to what the people want."

The Homestead course is located in Midway just south of the 27-hole Wasatch Mountain State Park course and right next to the Homestead resort, which has also received a major facelift in recent years.

The first time I played it, I admit I wasn't thrilled. You felt like you had to use irons off many tees because the slightest off-target wood could fly over a fence and out of bounds. And who likes to leave your driver in the bag?

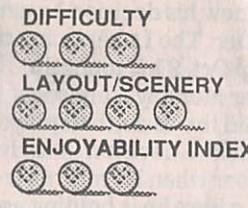
One of the problems when the course first opened was the fact that land disputes had forced the course to change several holes at the last minute, turning it from a 7,000-yard, par-72 into a 6,300-yard par-70. But most of those disputes have been settled, allowing the original layout to be restored save for one hole.

You notice the change right away when you play No. 1, which used to be No. 10, a short par-4. Now it is a sharp dogleg that goes uphill, covering land that used to be a long walk (or ride) between holes.

While the front nine is played up on the hill above the resort, the back side is played down below. No. 12 is a fun little par-3 requiring a delicate tee shot, while No. 16 is a scenic hole that curves through trees to the right. Our least favorite hole is No. 13, a layup hole

HOLE	PAR	YARDS
1	5	503
2	3	148
3	4	326
4	4	321
5	5	570
6	4	377
7	5	500
8	3	200
9	4	374
OUT	36	3177
10	4	352
11	4	323
12	3	131
13	4	370
14	3	153
15	4	360
16	4	339
17	5	501
18	4	402
IN	36	3192
TOTAL	72	6369

*MIDDLE TEES



The Homestead GOLF COURSE



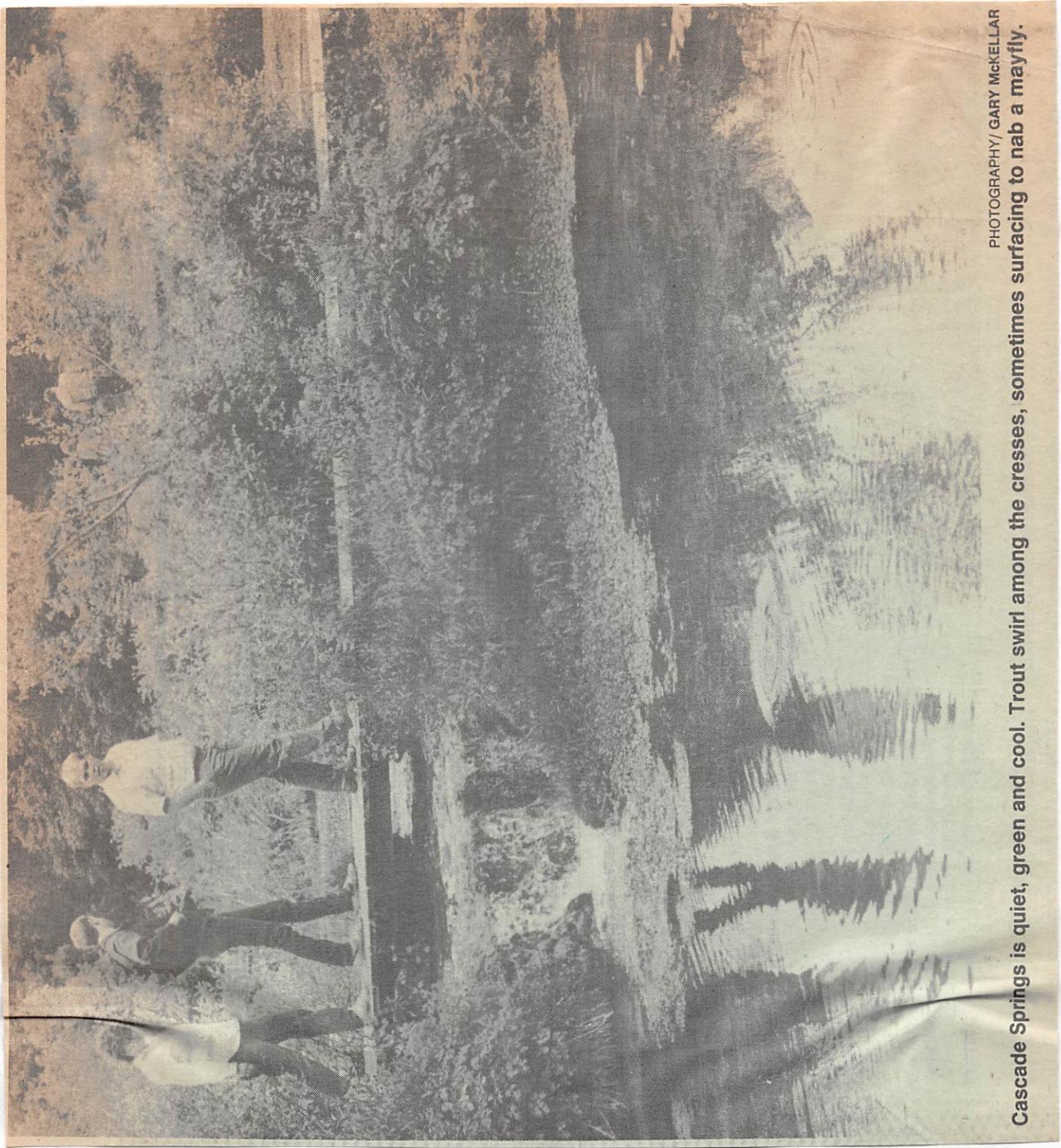
LOCATION: 700 N. HOMESTEAD DRIVE, MIDWAY
 HEAD PROFESSIONAL: CHRIS BRISCOES
 DESIGNER/YR. OPENED: BRUCE SUMMERHAYS 1989
 COST: \$9/\$15 CARTS, \$5/\$10 PER PERSON, \$2/\$4 RANGE
 RESERVATIONS: 654-1102, 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE
 EASIEST TIME TO GET ON: MON.-TUES., LATE AFTERNOON
 COURSE RECORD: BRUCE SUMMERHAYS 62 (COMPETITIVE)

that's difficult to get a feel for off the tee and only requires a 6- or 7-iron from the whites.

The 9th and 18th holes run parallel to each other and share the same long green. While we liked the green, which has a large tree in front to separate the two holes, the tees are so close together you have

to wait if someone is on the adjoining tee.

Prices at the Homestead are reasonable, although slightly above most public courses. You can play for \$15 on weekdays and no cart is required like many resort-type courses. You can also get packages in conjunction with the resort.



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY MCKELLAR
Cascade Springs is quiet, green and cool. Trout swirl among the cresses, sometimes surfacing to nab a mayfly.